

DOCUMENTS

IN RELATION TO THE DISMISSAL

OF

DAVID G. SEIXAS,

FROM THE

*PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF
AND DUMB;*

PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION

OF THE

CONTRIBUTORS,

*In pursuance of a Resolution of the Board of Directors,
passed the 3d of April, 1822.*



PHILADELPHIA :

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



1822.

At a stated meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held April 3d, 1822, at the Asylum, it was

On motion of Mr. ALEXANDER HENRY,

Resolved, That the Documents in relation to the dismissal of David G. Seixas from the Institution, transmitted to the House of Representatives of this Commonwealth, be published for the information of the Contributors, and that the Rev. P. F. Mayer, William M'Ilvaine, and Dr. Franklin Bache be the committee to superintend the said publication.

Present, the Right Rev. WILLIAM WHITE in the Chair,

Messrs. Patterson, Meredith, Beck, Bache, Williams, Binney, Vaughan,	Messrs. Henry, Morris, Vaux, Biddle, Mayer, Tilghman, Chapman,	Messrs. Cadwalader, Price, M'Ilvaine, Bacon, Duane, Irvine, Wood.
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State Capitol, January 27, 1822.

SIR—I am directed by a committee, appointed by the House of Representatives to inquire into the state and condition of the Pennsylvania Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb of this Commonwealth, to request you to furnish said committee with an abstract of the proceedings of your board, subsequent to the incorporating act of last session ; specifying particularly the causes which produced the late change of teachers ; the qualifications of the one now employed by the board ; his terms of teaching, or the salary allowed him compared with that allowed to Mr. Seixas ; the difference in the plan of teaching adopted by the present teacher, if any there be, from that introduced by Mr. Seixas ; together with any other valuable information relative to the Institution, which you may have it in your power to communicate.

Very respectfully yours, &c.

Very respectfully yours, &c.

JAMES TODD, Chairman.

WILLIAM WHITE, President.

On motion, resolved, that so much of the letter of Mr. Todd, as relates to "the qualifications of the teacher now employed by the Board, his terms of teaching or the salary allowed him, compared with that allowed to Mr. Seixas, the difference in the plan of teaching adopted by the present teacher, if any there be, from that introduced by Mr. Seixas," be referred to the committee of instruction.

On motion of General Cadwalader, resolved, that the remainder of the letter of Mr. Todd be referred to a committee of three.

General Cadwalader, Mr. Mayer, and Dr. Bache were nominated members of this committee.

At a stated meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held at the Asylum Wednesday, February 6, 1822—

Present, the Rt. Rev. W. WHITE in the Chair,

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Cadwalader,	Messrs. Vaughan,
Gratz,	Haines,	Mayer,
Price,	Williams,	Morris,
Wood,	Bacon,	Biddle,
Vaux,	Beck,	Duane.
McIlvaine,	Bache,	

Mr. Vaux, from the committee of instruction, submitted the following report, which was on motion adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The committee of instruction, to whom the Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb referred, at their last special meeting, that part of the letter of the chairman of a committee of the House of Representatives, which requests information respecting "the qualifications of the teacher now employed by the Board, his terms of teaching, or the salary allowed him, compared with that allowed to Mr. Seixas, and the difference in the plan of teaching adopted by the present teacher, if any there be, from that introduced by Mr. Seixas"—

Respectfully report,

1. That previously to the engagement by them of the services of Mr. Laurent Clerc as the Principal of the Pennsylvania Institution, they were perfectly satisfied that his qualifications as a teacher of the Deaf and Dumb, were of the highest order. Ample testimony to his merit, was to be found in the facts well known to all who have paid attention to the history of the Paris and Hartford schools—that this gentleman was one of the most distin-

guished pupils of the Abbé Sicard—that, after eight years training under that eminent instructor, whose system has commanded the admiration of the best judges in the philosophical world, and has been generally adopted as a model in the other schools of Europe, he became himself a teacher, and in this capacity served with distinction during eight succeeding years, in the Paris Institution—that in the year 1816, when Mr. Gallaudet was introduced to that Institution, Mr. Clerc was occupied in the instruction of the first class, which had been under his charge for two years, and being recommended by the Abbé Sicard as competent to the task of imparting the knowledge of his system to the American Asylum, then about to be established in Connecticut, he was employed by Mr. Gallaudet, and brought to the United States for that purpose—that to the Hartford teachers he has accordingly given lectures upon his art, which as applied to the English language by Mr. Gallaudet, has been also successfully practised by Mr. Clerc himself, in the instruction of a class, for a period of four or five years.

Some of your committee, in common with a large assembly of the citizens of Philadelphia, witnessed in the year 1816, at a public exhibition, as well as in private circles, the extraordinary attainments of Mr. Clerc in the English language, of which he had then been, but for a few months, a student, and remember with admiration the answers given by him, to many abstruse and metaphysical questions, which few of the company present could have replied to with greater precision or philosophical accuracy. The idioms of the French language, which were at that time perceptible in his composition, have now disappeared, and he is considered by your committee, to be fully entitled to the high commendations which the directors and principal of the Hartford Institution have bestowed upon him, that he is admirably qualified to evolve the intellectual faculties of the Deaf and Dumb, and to put them in possession of the English language, as an instrument of thought.

In favour of the system which he pursues, no more convincing argument can be adduced, than his own illustrious example of its efficacy. That system is now in full operation in the Pennsylvania Institution, and in connexion with excellent moral discipline, is already presenting its fruits, in the rapidly improving minds, habits and manners of all its pupils.

2. The terms on which Mr. Clerc has been engaged, are to be

found in the following Report, made to the Board by this Committee on the 27th day of October last.

“ Mr. M’Ilvaine, from the committee of Instruction, made the following report, which was, on motion of the Rev. Mr. Mayer, accepted.

“ To the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

“ Your committee of Instruction respectfully report, that in order to fulfil the duty assigned to them at your last stated meeting, two of your committee repaired as soon as possible to Hartford, and made an informal application to the Directors of the Asylum there, for the services of Mr. Laurent Clerc. Startling as the request was, to part, even for a short time, with this distinguished teacher of the Abbé Sicard’s school, to whose instructions their Asylum is mainly indebted for its present pre-eminence in this country ; and particularly inconvenient as it appeared to be to comply with this request, after having recently dismissed from their service, on account of ill health, Mr. Woodbridge, another teacher of considerable experience in his art, the gentlemen of the Hartford Board, nevertheless, manifested a generous disposition to afford to your Institution every possible aid, and accordingly convened at an early hour for the purpose of considering the following formal communication.

“ *To the President and Directors of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.*

Hartford, Oct. 19th, 1821.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb having directed their Committee of Instruction to procure without delay a Teacher, in every respect qualified to complete the instruction, as well religious as intellectual, of any of their present classes, the undersigned, members of that committee, on their behalf, beg leave to state, that the Pennsylvania Institution have naturally looked to yours as to a parent establishment, from which alone, on this side of the Atlantic, they could expect assistance in the furtherance of the benevolent views which are common to both.

“ They feel so deep an interest in the success of your Institution, and in the extension of the benefits which every part of the United

States may expect to derive from it, that they would very reluctantly make any demand upon its good disposition, which might essentially impair its present or future usefulness; but pressed as their establishment is by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to employ at once the very liberal fund which the State has allowed them for the maintenance and education of the numerous indigent mutes applying for relief, they feel it incumbent on them to ask whatever temporary aid it may be at this moment in your power to afford them, even should that aid extend only to the attainment of a uniform system of instruction for the two institutions, and at the same time lead to an earnest co-operation for effecting those philanthropic objects which both must have at heart.

" Having explained fully to many of your Board, as well as to your principal, the general object of their visit to Hartford, the undersigned need not here enter upon details, but will gratefully accept of any means which you may be disposed to put into their hands, leaving the terms to be pointed out by yourselves.

We are Gentlemen, most respectfully,

your obedient servants,

(Signed)

WILLIAM M'ILVAINE,
CLEMENT C. BIDDLE.

" The result of the deliberations of the Hartford Board on the evening of the 19th inst. was its consent to spare to your Institution for a limited period Mr. Clerc, provided the offers we could make to him should prove acceptable. Your committee at once agreed to assume all the engagements of the Hartford Board to Mr. Clerc, and accordingly subscribed, in the name of your Board, the following contract.

" Agreement entered into, this twenty-third day of October, A. D. 1821, at Hartford, in the state of Connecticut, between the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, by their committee of Instruction, by virtue of the powers given to them of the one part, and Laurent Clerc of the other part, witnesseth, that the said Laurent Clerc, on his part, engages to enter into the Pennsylvania Institution for the purpose of instructing a Class of Deaf and Dumb Pupils, for five hours each day, Sundays and holidays excepted, and also excepting Saturdays, when he shall instruct but three hours, (and he shall also have three weeks

vacation,) during the period of six months next ensuing the time of his departure from Hartford, and it is understood that all these reservations are made without any diminution of the compensation to be hereafter stipulated, and on any excursion from the city of Philadelphia, or in any business which the said Clerc may be called upon to undertake for the benefit of the Institution, in which expenses are incurred, he will expect those expenses to be paid by the said Institution ; and the said Clerc shall be at liberty to leave the Institution at the expiration, and even at any time before the expiration of said term, he shall be at liberty to withdraw from the Institution and return to the American Asylum, should the Directors of that Asylum consider that its interests require his services there, and should such a case arise, said Clerc shall receive from the Pennsylvania Institution, such compensation as is proportioned to the time he may remain in it—in consideration of which stipulations as above, the said Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, by their committee of Instruction, engage to pay the said Laurent Clerc seven hundred and fifty dollars, for his services as abovementioned for six months, and to pay his travelling expenses to and from Hartford, between that place and Philadelphia, and also to make up to him whatever difference there may be between the expense of boarding, fuel, &c. in Hartford and Philadelphia, and also such expenses as may be occasioned by said Clerc's removal to Philadelphia, and the amount he may be obliged to pay in consequence of not fulfilling his engagement to board until May next with the person he now leaves, and said Clerc is to have the privilege of giving private lessons for his own emolument during the hours when he is not employed according to his above engagements, and said Clerc agrees to instruct the pupils committed to his charge in the English Language, Grammar, &c. and in the Holy Scriptures, and in the course of his Scripture lessons, to give such general instruction in the principles of the Christian Religion, as may be required by the Board of Directors, and not incompatible with his own peculiar tenets.

(Signed)

LT. CLERC,
CLEMENT C. BIDDLE,
WILLIAM M'ILVAINE.

Attest,

GEORGE ROSE.

“ On this contract it is proper to remark, that with respect to the compensation which Mr. Clerc is to have for the instruction of the other teachers out of school hours, it was understood between him and your committee that a liberal allowance should be made by the Board.—It was also understood, and formed one of the principal inducements for the consent of the Hartford Board to the arrangements, that the system of Mr. Clerc throughout should be adopted in the Pennsylvania Institution, in order to produce, if possible, uniformity in the modes of instruction in the American Schools for Deaf and Dumb, and a reciprocation of the advantages which might occasionally be derived from an exchange of teachers, and from uniting in the publication of books, &c.

“ Mr. Clerc is therefore presented by us to your Board, as the Principal of your school, from whom the other Teachers you may think proper to employ, may, even in the short period of six months, derive so much of the outlines of the excellent system of instruction, from which his own wonderful attainments have resulted, as will in the opinion of your committee qualify them to complete the three years’ course of education which the Legislature contemplated.”

The contract with Mr. Seixas contained in the minutes of the 13th of May 1820, was reported as follows :—

“ The committee appointed on the 6th inst. to make an agreement with Mr. Seixas as instructor to the children of the Institution, report as follows :—

“ That agreeably to their appointment, they have engaged the services of Mr. Seixas for three months certain, according to the memorandum of contract hereunto annexed.

“ The subscribers, a committee of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, do, by virtue of the authority vested in them, agree on behalf of the Institution, to pay to D. G. Seixas, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, for his services as instructor of Deaf and Dumb children, for the space of three calendar months, to commence on the 15th of the present month. This memorandum of agreement is subject in point of continuance to

the terms of Mr. Seixas's communication to the subscribers heretofore made. (Signed)

May 9, 1820.

H. BINNEY,

R. VAUX,

T. CADWALADER.

"I agree to the above,
(Signed) D. G. SEIXAS."

3. As to the third question, what is the difference between the plan of our present teacher, and that of his predecessor, the committee beg leave to report, that the plan of Mr. Clerc is that of the Abbé Sicard, of which his Course of Instruction, and other treatises before the public, contain very full and accurate accounts. That as the committee are not, and never have been in possession of any plan of Mr. Seixas in relation to the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, they cannot institute the required comparison.

(Signed)

ROBERTS VAUX,

HOR. BINNEY,

CLEMENT C. BIDDLE,

WILLIAM M. ILVAINE,

W. MEREDITH.

Philadelphia, Feb. 6, 1822.

General Cadwalader from the committee to which was referred a part of the letter of Mr. Todd, made the following report, which was adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The committee to whom was referred such parts of the letter of James Todd, Esquire, chairman of a committee of the House of Representatives, as relate to "an abstract of the proceedings of the Board subsequent to the incorporating act of the last session, specifying particularly the causes which produced the late change of teachers."—"together with any other valuable information which it may be in the power of the Board to communicate"—respectfully report—

That having carefully examined the minutes of the Board, from the date of the act of incorporation, to the present time, they find, that, with the exceptions—1st, of the proceedings in the case of David G. Seixas, in relation to which a detailed report is on your table—2d, of such matters as will necessarily be embraced in the report now to be made by the committee of instruction—and 3d, of the Treasurer's account, and such other matters as are contained in the statement transmitted to the speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives, at the close

of the past year, in pursuance of a provision of the act of incorporation,—the minutes merely exhibit a detail of the ordinary business of the Institution—an abstract of which would require much time, trouble, and expense to prepare, and would present no information in any respect “valuable,” or interesting to the legislature.—

It is presumed by your committee, therefore, that this report, in connexion with the documents on your table relating to the case of D. G. Seixas, and in addition to such particulars as may be furnished in the report of the committee of instruction—will be deemed sufficient to answer the several objects expressed in the letter of Mr. Todd. But it is recommended by your committee, that the President, in his letter, accompanying the documents to be transmitted to the committee of the House of Representatives, be requested by this Board to state, that if, after perusing those documents, the committee should be desirous of examining the minutes, the book will be forwarded to Harrisburgh for their inspection.—All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

T. CADWALADER,
PHILIP F. MAYER,
FRANKLIN BACHE.

Philadelphia, Feb. 6, 1822.

On motion of General Cadwalader,

Resolved, That the President be requested to transmit to J. Todd, Esq. in reply to his letter of the 27th January, 1822, the report of the committee of instruction of this evening, the report of the committee to whom was referred the remainder of the letter of Mr. Todd, also of this evening, and in addition thereto, the following report and statement of the committee on Mr. Seixas's case, laid on the table at the last meeting, and adopted at this meeting.

The committee appointed to prepare and report to the Board, a statement of the proceedings in the case of Mr. D. G. Seixas, in the order of time in which they occurred,

Report,

That upon referring to the minutes, they find, that, either from inadvertence in the Board, or in making up the minutes of their proceedings, it would be difficult without a key or guide, to collect from them a distinct and orderly account of the proceedings in the case of Mr. Seixas.

It was undoubtedly the intention of the whole Board, to omit placing on record, the details of his case, at least, until a final decision might make it necessary. This is obvious, from the disposition which was made on the 27th September, and 3d October, 1821, of the reports of the two committees—and in regard to the report of the second committee, the Secretary has recorded a special order to this effect. If this intention had been regularly executed, the minutes would have presented no traces of the case until after Doctor Chapman's motion of the 7th November, when the whole would have appeared in order of time and connexion, with the same effect as if originally entered on the record : and this beyond doubt was what was intended, though probably not always so expressed as to form a rule for the Secretary.

At present the minutes are not formed upon the plan either of exclusion or insertion, but partly on one, and partly on the other; and one of the consequences of this is, that material circumstances are disjointed and misplaced. For example, the letter of Mr. Seixas, containing his remarks upon the evidence, is entered at length on the minutes of the 1st November, whereas no statement of that evidence is given until the minutes of the 7th November, two meetings afterwards. In the minutes of the 3d October also, it is stated that a committee made a report and presented a summary of it to the Board, who accepted it ;—but the terms of the summary agreed to by the Board, do not appear until the minutes of the 7th November, more than a month afterwards.

The committee have further ascertained, that in one instance, a resolution is stated as having been moved in the form in which it was adopted, and now stands on the minutes ; whereas it is notorious that the original motion or resolution was in a different form, and was, after discussion, amended and then adopted. The committee refer to a resolution on the minutes of the 3d October 1821. In the ordinary transactions of the Board, attention to such a circumstance might not be important, but it has become so in the case of Mr. Seixas.

These and any other irregularities in the minutes, the committee are of opinion, may be justly attributed to the original intention to exclude every thing in regard to this subject until its termination,—to the imperfect manner in which the intention was carried into effect—and to an omission to attend to the minutes as the affair was in progress, under the expectation that they

would be put in order at its close. The diligence and general accuracy of the Secretary are not meant to be impeached by this statement ; on the contrary they are entitled to great praise.

In order to perform the duty confided to them, the committee present herewith a statement of the proceedings in the case of Mr. Seixas in the order of time in which they occurred, differing from the minutes in these particulars only.—1st: In the arrangement according to time.—2d: In giving a correct account of a resolution appearing on the minutes of the 3d October 1821:—3d: In giving the particulars of the verbal report made at the meeting of the 3d October 1821, which was followed by the summary now appearing on the minutes.—The committee have in addition to this, introduced a statement of certain proceedings of the committee of instruction, which they deem essential to a just understanding of a part of this case ; and they have in one or two instances referred to what was said or done upon making or adopting a proposition, for the better elucidation of the whole ; but they have declined offering any argument whatever upon the case, notwithstanding they have given the argument of Mr. Seixas contained in his letter of the 29th October, 1821.

That the statement here given is accurate, the committee have no reason to doubt ; at the same time, they hope it will be examined by all the Board, and if any error has inadvertently crept in, that it will be corrected.

The committee further report, that in the examination of the minutes, they have found an error of no inconsiderable importance, in regard to Mr. Seixas's compensation. By the minutes of 7th November, 1821, it appears that " the secretary was directed to draw an order for the payment of Mr. Seixas's salary, for a quarter, ending 15th October, and another *for the one since commenced.*" Such an order was accordingly drawn, and on the 14th November, the Treasurer paid David G. Seixas five hundred dollars, the amount of half a year's salary.

The principle upon which Mr. Seixas was paid for the last quarter, (and the propriety of which principle, the committee do not mean to question) was no doubt that he had already entered on that quarter, his connexion with the school having terminated after the 15th October, to wit, on the 3d November ; but the fact is, that Mr. Seixas's quarter did not end on the 15th of October, but on the 15th November ; and hence he has been paid for the

unexpired quarter, and also for an entire quarter, of which no part had been entered upon. This appears from the following facts :—

The engagement of Mr. Seixas with the institution, began on the 15th May, 1820, for two hundred and fifty dollars the quarter; and being afterwards continued under an implied continuance of this agreement, his quarters ended the 15th of August, 15th of November, &c.: and not on the *15th of October*, as is stated in the minute of the 7th November, 1821. Had Mr. Seixas continued in the school twelve days after the vote for his dismissal, to wit, until the 15th November, he would have been only 18 months in the school, and entitled to but fifteen hundred dollars: he has been paid seventeen hundred and fifty.—The error of the Board may have arisen from a minute of the 5th September, 1821, in which Mr. Seixas's previous quarter is stated to have ended the 15th of July, instead of 15th August; but the error is shown by examining the minutes at pages 12, 48, and 52.

The committee do not mean by this statement to lead to the undoing of what has been done, but to correct the error in the minutes, and to show that Mr. Seixas has received two hundred and fifty dollars, the amount of salary for a quarter which was not to commence until nearly a fortnight after he left the school, in addition to the full amount of the then unexpired quarter.

All which is respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

HOR. BINNEY,
T. CADWALADER,
WILLIAM MILVAINE,
PHILIP F. MAYER,
ROBERTS VAUX.

A STATEMENT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

IN THE

CASE OF DAVID G. SEIXAS.

AT a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held September 21, 1821, at the Philosophical Hall.

Present, Bishop WHITE in the chair,

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Meredith,	Messrs. Fisher,
Vaughan,	Price,	Bacon,
Mayer,	Williams,	Gratz,
Wood,	Chapman,	M'Ilvaine.
Binney,	Biddle,	

On motion of Mr. Binney, resolved, that Messrs. Bacon, Wood, Biddle, M'Ilvaine and Gratz, be a committee to inquire into the state of the Asylum, and to report whether there is any thing in the domestic situation of the pupils which requires the interposition of this Board.

This motion was preceded by a statement, that complaints had been made of the conduct of Mr. Seixas, to certain of his female pupils, the particulars of which would be given by the gentlemen to whom they were made; that the subject was one of great interest to the school, as well as to Mr. Seixas; which required much discretion and delicacy in its management, and it ought to be so conducted, that if upon inquiry the complaints should appear to be without foundation, Mr. Seixas should not suffer by a promulgation of the charges. The gentlemen present adopted this sentiment, and after the particulars of the charges had been stated, agreed that they ought not to be made the subject of general conversation.

AT a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution, for the Deaf and Dumb, held, Thursday, September 27, 1821, at the Philosophical Hall,

Present, Bishop WHITE in the chair,

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Biddle,	Messrs. Fisher,
Jac. Gratz,	Bacon,	Mayer,
Binney,	Bache,	M'Ilvaine,
Meredith,	Beck,	Price,
Vaux,	Morris,	Wood,
Vaughan,	Henry,	Williams.
Chapman,		

Mr. Bacon, from the committee appointed to inquire into the domestic situation of the Asylum, submitted a report, which was read as follows :

The committee appointed at the last meeting of the Board to examine into the state of the school, and inquire whether there is any thing that may require the interference of the Board of Managers, respectfully

REPORT,

That immediately after the adjournment of the Board, on Friday evening last, your committee proceeded to the Asylum, and commenced the performance of the duty assigned them. The chairman of your committee stated to them, that he had been called on a few days since, by the mother of Letitia Ford, who complained to him, that she had for some time past, been very unhappy about her daughter, who was a pupil in the school under the care of the institution ; that this uneasiness had originated in consequence of a dream, from the tenor of which " she was sure some harm would come to her daughter." She continued very anxious, and lost many nights' rest in consequence of it, until at length her daughter came home to see her, when she asked her as well as she could, if any thing had happened at the school ; that her daughter then gave her to understand that Mr. Seixas had, as the chairman supposed, used very severe measures with her, by seizing hold of, and pinching her thighs, taking her by the nose and ear, and pulling them. Upon further conversation with the mother, she expressed her fears, lest the chastity of her daughter might be violated, as she learned from her, that Mr. S. had made her (the daughter) an offer of a dollar, and also to give her fine clothes, from which she could only believe that he meditated the seduction of her daughter, and on her expressing with great warmth of feeling and anxiety, her apprehension that something of a serious and distressing nature might happen, if it had not already

happened to her daughter ; the chairman, with a view to allay her fears, remarked, that he hoped nothing of the nature alluded to, had occurred, and that at the present time there was little or no danger, as Mr. S. did not lodge in the house, (the circumstances referred to having taken place, while he was a lodger in the Asylum,) to which she observed " what is there to prevent him from taking my child behind a door, at 12 o'clock, when nobody is by, and do her an injury." A promise was made that proper care would be extended towards her daughter, and suitable inquiry made. She spoke of Mr. Seixas in very respectful terms of commendation for the marked kindness he had evinced at all times to herself and family, especially when in great distress, caused by sickness in her family some months since, when he supplied her with some money and many comforts, and now regretted very sincerely that she felt herself compelled from a sense of duty, to enter this complaint against him.

Your committee, after stating to Mary Cowgill, the matron, (who was invited to meet them in their room), the painful and alarming impressions made on the Board, by the information of Mrs. Ford, required from her, (the Matron,) in the most formal and solemn manner, a full and unreserved communication of all the circumstances with which she might at any time have become acquainted, respecting Mr. Seixas's deportment towards Letitia Ford, as well as towards any other of the female scholars under the care of the institution.

In compliance with this request, Mary Cowgill stated that about the middle of the past winter, about a month, as well as she can recollect, after the return of David Seixas from Harrisburg, she going one morning into the chamber of the girls, before breakfast, received a complaint from Letitia Ford, aged between fourteen and fifteen years, that David Seixas had, during the night just passed, visited that chamber, after she and the rest of the girls had gone to bed, and particularly that he had come to the bedside of herself and Catharine Hartman, placed his hands on the bed, and taken hold of her leg, that Catharine Hartman, her bed-fellow, whose foot also he had taken hold of, was excessively alarmed, and that he went round to the other side of the bed, and endeavoured to quiet her, after which he left the room ; that Mr. Seixas had no candle, and that there was no moon light. This representation was on the same morning, and at the same

time confirmed by Catharine Hartman, who very expressively signified her fears ; and by Eliza Williams and Elizabeth Buckius, who were bed-fellows in an adjoining bed. They all evinced strong marks of horror and indignation, while giving their relation. They agreed also in stating that after D. G. Seixas left the room, they shut the door.

Being asked by M. Cowgill, whether they were certain the person who came into the room was David G. Seixas, they assured her it was ; they knew him. The matron said, that as soon as possible, she had the lock on the chamber door repaired, and that in the interim the chamber door was secured by placing a bedstead against it.

About the time of these occurrences, the mother of Letitia Ford complained to Mary Cowgill of David G. Seixas having kissed her daughter ; and expressing herself fearful of consequences, begged the matron's watchful attention to the protection of her child. Pursuing as well as she was able the order of time, the matron stated that a short time previous to the formation of the second class, perhaps in the month of May, Eliza Williams, on coming down stairs to tea, from the school room, where she had been detained by the Principal after the dismissal of the class, on account of some misbehaviour, appeared greatly agitated, and immediately after tea, complained with expressions of disgust against David G. Seixas, of his having kissed her ; the matron questioning her veracity, demanded who was present in the school room—she said "Albert," who, being called, confirmed the account.

Shortly after the arrival of the second class of pupils in the beginning of June, and before the necessary preparations had been made to accommodate Mr. Dillingham, the assistant teacher, with lodgings in the Asylum, the girls of that class were put in the north-west room, to sleep, the Principal still occupying as his bed room, the south-east chamber on the same floor. The pupils being generally young, and all strangers in the Asylum, the Matron thought proper in order to reconcile them to their new situation to put Letitia Ford, one of the oldest of the first class of scholars, to sleep in the room with them ; more especially as Diana, the cook, had her bed in the same room, a circumstance which might not be agreeable to the new comers.

Letitia Ford one morning complained to the Matron, who vi-

sited the Girls' chamber previous to their leaving it, that David, on the preceding night, had again come into their chamber—questioned “Where, to the bed?” answered, “Yes, to the bed side;” and had alarmed her very much. Polly Wallace had slept with her. The cook upon being desired for a confirmation of this account, said that if D. G. Seixas had that night gone into the chamber, it must have been before she went to bed.

Letitia Ford, a day or two afterwards, informed Mary Cowgill, that Mr. Seixas had been again in their chamber after they had gone to bed, and after approaching towards their bed, retired.—Some time, say two or three weeks subsequently to this last information of Letitia Ford's, the cook addressed M. Cowgill, and asked her why she was so particular in locking the girls' chamber door. M. Cowgill told her, that was none of her business. Some time after, the cook repeated this inquiry, and received a similar answer, upon which the cook remarked, “Miss Mary, Mr. Seixas is not a very good man, I believe.”—“Why, Diana, what makes thee think so?”—“Don't you think he came into our room the other night!” Not wishing to let the cook know that she (M. Cowgill) knew any thing of the circumstances, M. Cowgill said, “Perhaps it was not David, but some other person.” *Cook*. “Oh no! bless you, Miss Mary, I was not mistaken in his sharp eyes—you know, Miss Mary, I can't be mistaken.” *M. C.* “Perhaps he was asleep, they say he walks in his sleep sometimes.” *Cook*. “Perhaps he was; but he opened the door when he came in, and shut it when he went out.” The conversation then terminated.

Your committee having thus obtained from the Matron all the information she could impart relative to the subject under their charge, determined to proceed with the investigation by examining the cook and four of the girls, viz. Letitia Ford, Catharine Hartman, Eliza Williams, and Elizabeth Buckius.

The cook was examined separately from the others, and stated, that some time in January last, about twelve or one o'clock at night, she being in bed and asleep, was aroused by some one opening the door; she soon discovered it was Mr. Seixas, from the light of the lamp in the street, and its being a clear starlight night. He came in very quietly, was undressed above his waist, but she was not sure that he had his pantaloons off; from his silent tread, she was sure he had no shoes on. He looked about the chamber and soon left it, closing the door after him very carefully. She

was sure he opened the door of the girls' chamber, opposite to her chamber, immediately after leaving her chamber; she did not hear their chamber door closed, but heard a stirring in the chamber of the girls, which was soon hushed up. No person slept in the room with her. On another night, after the new scholars came, D. G. Seixas went to his chamber about the usual bedtime, ten o'clock, and remained there, as near as she could tell, one hour. He then came into the girls' chamber, where she then slept, with his coat and shoes off, and proceeded very cautiously towards the girls' bed, but stopped and came towards her's (the cook's bed,) and looked attentively; she feigned sleep, but watched him; he then retired, walking backwards; he had a lamp in his hand. Letitia Ford and Polly Wallace laughed aloud after he had left the chamber, but while he was in the chamber they lay quietly. Letitia Ford has repeatedly expressed to her (the cook,) her dislike of D. G. Seixas, when they have been alone in the kitchen.

Your committee, aware of the difficulty that would occur in obtaining testimony from those of the unfortunate pupils of the institution whom they intended to examine, if dependent altogether upon their own means of eliciting it from them, determined to call in the aid of the Matron, whose superior knowledge of the requisite signs, would render this part of their duty much more satisfactory to themselves as well as to the Board. They accordingly, with her assistance, received from Letitia Ford the following information, first receiving from her, answers to the following questions put to her on the slate.

"Who came to your room at night?"

"David came to my room at night."

"Was it very dark?"

"It was very dark."

"Had David a light?"

"David had no light."

"Did you see David?"

"I did not see David, he hid the room."

Finding she could not comprehend other questions stated to her, recourse was had to signs, when by the same means she most expressively showed us, that David had visited the Girls' chamber, at night; that he came to the bed of herself and bed-fellow Catharine Hartman, and first placed his hand under the clothes on C. Hartman, and then passed it over on to her, after which

he walked round the foot of the bed, and attempted to turn down the clothes, which she seized hold of, when he hugged and kissed her.

After her examination, C. Hartman was called in, who at first could not be made to understand what was wanted with her, but after some little time the recollection seemed suddenly to flash upon her mind, which was strongly expressed in her countenance. She then related what had been previously told by L. Ford, confirming entirely the whole story.—By a pantomimic representation they showed the committee that Mr. Seixas cautiously entered the room, first examined the bed on C. Hartman's side, looked on her, placed his hand warily under the clothes, and then went carefully to the other side of the bed to L. Ford, stripped the clothes down, which were immediately seized by L. Ford, and that he succeeded in hugging and kissing her repeatedly. Notwithstanding the room was dark they both insisted it was David, and L. Ford said emphatically, that she knew it was him from the snuff. They described him as undressed, being in white and having a white cap on. L. Ford confirmed his coming to the chamber when she slept in the same room with Diana.

Eliza Williams was then examined, and confirmed generally what is above stated, evincing the same highly expressive character of countenance, upon the recollection of the circumstances, which she, like C. Hartman, had forgotten. Being asked whether she saw David, she answered no, it was dark. She also confirmed the account of David's having kissed her, and enumerated five times that it had occurred, three times in the school and twice in the parlour. Eliza Williams and Elizabeth Buckius were bed-fellows in the chamber.

Elizabeth Buckius informed your committee that David had kissed her, and that she had seen him kiss L. Ford and E. Williams; her recollection of David's having visited the girls' bed chamber, was not strong enough to enable her to give much information on the subject, she however confirmed it in part.

Your committee, deeming it highly essential to obtain all the information, they possibly could, on this deeply interesting subject, agreed to visit the mother of Letitia Ford, at her residence, on Market street, near Schuylkill. They accordingly made an arrangement to meet the matron, M. Cowgill, and Letitia Ford the daughter, on Saturday afternoon last. They give the result of

this visit as nearly as possible in the conversation that took place, which was committed to writing at the time.

Isabella Ford, the mother, stated, that she had some time last winter, a very unpleasant dream, in relation to her daughter, which caused certain apprehensions in her mind, which she communicated to no-body, until after the following occurrence. One Sunday early in the spring, Letitia visited her mother and sitting at the door in the course of the day mentioned to her mother, as well as she could be understood, that some male had offered her a dollar (making a circle on her hand) and also fine dresses, (marking them by an appropriate sign) had bent her back with his arms, pulled her nose and hugged and kissed her. She supposed there being no other man in the school, that it was David Seixas her daughter referred to. Soon after the communication of these facts, Isabella Ford waited on Mary Cowgill, and mentioned them as well as the dream to her, and cautioned her to have an eye to the safety of her daughter.

Letitia Ford was again examined at her mother's house, as follows:—Did you tell your mother the above mentioned circumstances? Answer. I do not recollect.—Did David G. Seixas ever offer you a dollar? No, he gave me once in the winter a cent.—Did David ever offer you clothes?—No. Did you ever tell your mother of David's having taken liberties with you, in your chamber? Yes.—(The mother did not understand her to have done so.)

Isabella Ford, the mother, examined.—Did your daughter give you to understand that the liberties were taken with her at any particular place? No, but I was under the impression that they took place at the school. (Mary Cowgill, being asked in the presence of the mother, whether the mother complained to her, that it was David G. Seixas who had taken the liberties with her daughter, answered "She certainly did complain of *David G. Seixas*, I cannot be mistaken.") On what day after the communications from your daughter, did you wait on Miss Cowgill to mention them?—answer, "on the next day or the day after."

(Signed)

JOHN BACON,	} Committee.
CLEMENT C. BIDDLE,	
WILLIAM M'ILVAINE,	
JAC. GRATZ,	
SAMUEL R. WOOD,	

And on motion of Mr. Vaux the said report was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Binney, Patterson, Vaux, Cadwalader, and Meredith, to take such order on it as they may think proper.

At a stated meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held Wednesday, October 3, 1821, at the Asylum—

Present, BISHOP WHITE in the chair,

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Meredith,	Messrs. Beck,
Bacon,	Archer,	Haines,
Gratz,	Bache,	Williams,
Price,	Wood,	Chapman,
McIlvaine,	Vaux,	Biddle,
Binney,	Vaughan,	Henry.
Morris,		

Mr. Binney, from the committee to which the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the domestic situation of the Asylum was referred, made a verbal report of considerable length, and laid a summary of it in writing on the table, which report was on motion accepted. This summary and the report of the original committee were, on motion, ordered to be filed and not entered on the minutes.

This disposition of all the Board to preserve the minutes free from the details of the affair, may account for their not giving more of these details, and for their not giving with entire accuracy even the occurrences at the Board.

The circumstances attending the investigation by the committee last appointed were as follows :—

In conformity to the order of the 27th September, 1821, the chairman, by direction of the committee, communicated to David G. Seixas their request to see him, at the Philosophical Hall at a certain hour of the succeeding day, at which hour D. G. Seixas, and all the committee were present. The chairman then informed D. G. Seixas that the Board, in consequence of complaints made to some of its members, had directed an inquiry into the situation of the pupils, and that it became necessary to make known to him, that he was charged, with having gone on more than one occasion to the bed room of the female pupils after they had gone to bed ; with having kissed one or more of them, and taken other

improper liberties with them; that this had occurred at night, after the family had retired, and with circumstances indicating a desire of secrecy or concealment; that, in particular, complaints had proceeded from two of the senior female pupils, Letitia Ford, and Eliza Williams; and that the committee then present were instructed to take such order as they might think proper in regard to this matter.

Mr. Seixas said that the charges were false;—that, while the chairman was stating them to him, he had been endeavouring to recollect what could have given rise to the story, and that he now recollected, that upon two occasions he had gone into the room of the girls, in consequence of perceiving a light there at an unusual hour;—that on one of those occasions, he awoke Letitia Ford to admonish her, she being the oldest girl, and it having been her duty to extinguish the lamp;—that he pointed her attention to the lamp, gave to his countenance the expression of displeasure, put out the light and left the room;—that upon another occasion, hearing a noise in the girls' room after they had been some time retired for the purpose of going to bed, he opened the door, with some water in a mug held in his hand, and as they were playing about the room undressed, he threw the water upon them, in consequence of which they went to bed, and he went away;—that on another occasion, while he was lying in bed, he heard a noise, which he thought arose from some of the boys and girls being together;—that he proceeded to the boys' room, where all was silent;—that he felt the heads of all the boys, and thought that he missed one;—that he then proceeded to the bed room of the females, and felt all their heads to discover the missing boy;—that he did not find him; but in the course of the examination, Letitia Ford and Eliza Williams, the two oldest girls, awoke and were alarmed;—that he wrote his name in the hand of each of them, and made the sign of his name, which consisted in passing his fore finger over their chin;—that all these facts the children would establish;—that the charges were not only false, but absurd;—that he was accused of having done this thing at night, and secretly; “*But why,*” said Mr. Seixas, “*should I do it secretly, since it is known that I possess the key to their very souls, and that there is not a girl in the school that I could not enjoy if I pleased.*”—That he did not want to know who his accusers were—but that he knew he was surrounded by spies and enemies—and that he was ready for the fullest investigation.

The chairman then asked Mr. Seixas what course he wished to have pursued. He answered that he was *willing* to have the matter examined in any way the Committee might think proper—that he believed the children had a sense of truth, and that they would support what he had said. He was again asked by the chairman to say, not what he was willing, but what he *wished* or desired to have done, and was advised not to come to an immediate decision—that he should be allowed time for consideration, and the Committee would attend to any suggestions he might make. Mr. Seixas then said, that he would avail himself of the time offered, and would think of it ; that it occurred to him, that perhaps the children having once stated these circumstances, might adhere to them, and he would reflect more on the matter. He was asked whether he would be ready on the succeeding day ; he replied that the succeeding day would suit him entirely ; and the Committee, after requesting Mr. Seixas to have no communication with the pupils referred to in the mean time, adjourned to meet at the Asylum the next day at 10 o'clock A. M.

Saturday morning, September 29th, at 10 A. M. the Committee met at the Asylum, according to their adjournment. Mr. Seixas attended, and was asked whether he had had sufficient time to make up his mind as to the course to be pursued—he answered that he had—that he wished the children to be examined in his presence—and that the fuller the examination, the better he should like it. Accordingly, after Messrs. Wood, Bid-
dle and Gratz, who were three of the first committee of inquiry, had been called in, the Matron was requested to bring into the committee's room Letitia Ford ; and to serve as interpreter during her examination : but during the greater part of the examinations of the morning, Mr. Dillingham was interpreter.

Letitia Ford, apparently of the age of 15 or 16, was, when she came into the room, extremely agitated, and wept : after being encouraged by the Committee, by assurances of their friendship, and their wishes to hear the truth merely, she became sufficiently composed to answer the inquiries made of her. She was asked whether "*any body*," or "*somebody*," had come to her room at night. It was found she did not understand the meaning of "*any-body*," or "*somebody*." She was asked if *a man* had come to her room at night—she answered, that it was dark and she could not tell. She was then asked whether David Seixas had come

to her bed at night—she immediately cast her eye round to the part of the room where Mr. Seixas was sitting, and made signs with her hands which Mr. Seixas interpreted, “she says she is grateful.” She was again interrogated to the same point, Did David Seixas come to your bed at night—the Matron said, she spells the word “fear,” and “beat,” she says “she is afraid of being beaten.” Letitia Ford was then told to fear nobody, but to speak the truth—that the Committee were her friends. Being then again interrogated, whether David Seixas came to her bed at night—she replied *he did*. Whether he kissed her—she said yes. Whether he pulled the clothes off of her—she showed by signs that he made an effort to do it, but that she held them. Being asked how she knew it was David Seixas if it was dark—she answered, Catharine Hartman told her it was. She was then asked whether D. Seixas had at any time wrote his name in her hand, while she was in bed—she said no. Whether he had made the sign of his name upon her chin—she said no. Whether at any time he had thrown water on her, or the other girls—she said no. Whether at any time she had been waked by Mr. Seixas, and shown the light burning on the floor—she said she had not.

Mr. Seixas was asked whether he had any further questions to put to this pupil, and answering in the negative—the Matron was desired to take L. Ford out of the room and bring in Catharine Hartman, which she accordingly did. *Catharine Hartman*, was in like manner much agitated, and required the same assurances with L. Ford to compose and tranquillize her. She was apparently some years younger than L. Ford, and did not make so much use of the manual alphabet, but was quick in comprehending what was asked of her, and in communicating by natural signs. She was asked whether a man had come to the bed of herself and L. Ford at night, and what occurred : and having said yes, she immediately made the sign of the opening of the door, the entrance of a person with a night cap or handkerchief on his head, and in his shirt—that he walked up to the side of the bed where she lay, and took hold of her—that she was alarmed, and drew the clothes up about her head—that he retreated to the foot of the bed with great caution, then went up the side of the bed where L. Ford lay, and put his hand on or under the bed clothes about her limbs. She was asked again to show all that occurred, and she repeated the pantomime with very little variation. She

was asked whether the person kissed L. Ford—she said yes, and then repeated as before, with the addition of the kiss. She was asked, who the person was—she said it was dark. She was asked whether it was David Seixas—she again answered it was dark. She was asked whether she told L. Ford that it was D. Seixas—she said she had not.

Mr. Seixas was asked if he wished to put further questions to this pupil—he said he did not—and then the Committee directed the Matron to bring in L. Ford a second time, which was done.

L. Ford and C. Hartman were now requested to represent this scene together as it had occurred, which they did precisely as C. Hartman had represented it alone. In the presence of each other, C. Hartman was asked whether she had told L. Ford it was D. G. Seixas, and she said she had not, and L. Ford then stated that she had not said that C. Hartman had so told her.

These pupils having retired, the matron was requested to bring in Eliza Williams, another of the pupils.

Eliza Williams, about fourteen or fifteen years of age, was asked whether David G. Seixas had at any time kissed her; she said he had. How many times? Several times. Where? In the school room, after the other children had gone away. (Mr. Seixas here stated that he recollected the occurrence in the school room, that Eliza Williams had been negligent; that he kept her in after the other pupils were dismissed, and that she came up to the desk where he was writing—expressed her contrition and promise of amendment—that to encourage her he took her hand and kissed it, and one of the pupils was at the door and saw it.) Eliza Williams was then asked where he kissed her, and she said on her cheek. She was asked whether he kissed her hand, and she said no. She was asked whether David G. Seixas came to her bed at night, and kissed her, and she said he did; that she made an effort to scream, and that he then departed—that this took place in the house where they first lived before they removed to their present residence. She was asked whether D. G. Seixas had at any time written his name on her hand while in bed, she said no. Whether he had made the sign of his name upon her chin, she said no. Whether he had thrown water upon the girls while in their bed room, to drive them to bed, she said no; and she persisted in every part of her statement with remarkable steadiness, notwithstanding she was fully examined and cross-examined by Mr. Seixas.

Diana, the cook, was then called in, and stated that on two occasions Mr. Seixas had, late at night, come into her chamber, once with a light, and once without, when she discerned him by the external light, it being a light night. On one occasion L. Ford, with some of the younger children occupied the same room. Mr. Seixas, she said, came in with a lamp, went cautiously up to the bed of L. Ford, looked at her, then came towards the cook's bed, looked at her, and went gently out of the room; after which L. Ford and her bed-fellow burst out into laughter. The cook in the course of her examination also added, turning to Mr. Seixas, "you know Mr. Seixas I saw you, you cannot deny it." On the other occasion, Mr. Seixas came into the room without a light, looked at her, then looked round and went out, after which she heard the door of the girls' chamber open, but whether he went in she did not know.

Some time after the cook had left the room, Mr. Seixas said that he recollected going into the cook's room, and that it was to see whether she was in bed, as she was suspected, though as it turned out unjustly, of having stolen some sheets.

The matron was then asked, first, by the committee, whether L. Ford and C. Hartman had told her of Mr. Seixas's visit to their bed side immediately after it occurred. She said they had told her the next morning, and with marks of great disgust. Whether Eliza Williams had mentioned the kiss in the school room; she said she had, and was evidently displeased by it, during the whole evening of the day on which it occurred. Whether she had mentioned the kissing in bed, she said that she had not heard of that before. Mr. Seixas then asked the matron whether she had ever observed any thing improper in his conduct to the children. She replied that she had no personal knowledge of any impropriety in his conduct. Whether he had not told her of the light burning in the girls' room, she said he had. Whether the children were not given to story telling, and were not vindictive; she said they would all tell stories, and had their resentments. Whether Eliza Williams was not more remarkable for this than the other children; she thought she was. The matron further observed, that she had herself thought there was much indelicacy in some of the instructions given to the female pupils, as in teaching them the distinctions between the sexes, and the process of parturition.

Mr. Seixas was asked whether he desired a further examina-

tion of any of the pupils, he said he did not. He was then told that the committee would meet again on Wednesday of the succeeding week, at one o'clock, at the Philosophical Hall, and that it was expected he would in the mean time have no communication with the female pupils who had been examined.

At the next meeting of the committee, at one o'clock on Wednesday, the 3d of October, Mr. Seixas attended, and stated that on Saturday evening preceding, he had thought it proper in the presence of the matron to have a communication with L. Ford, that he had told her she had not stated the whole truth, asked her if she did not recollect the affair of the water, and of writing his name on her hand, that she still answered in the negative, and so continued to do several times, till at length on repeating the question he made her recollect both the affair of the water, and of his writing his name with *her* finger on *his* hand. Mr. Seixas also read a statement of his defence in writing, and then left the committee.

The committee then deliberated on the case, and it was agreed that, instead of taking order on the subject by dismissing or suspending Mr. Seixas themselves, the chairman should on the same afternoon make a verbal report of the examination to the Board, and of the result of the whole. The chairman accordingly drew up the result in a few lines, which was submitted to all the committee and agreed to by them before it was reported, in the terms now appearing on the minutes ; and on the afternoon of the 3d of October, 1821, he offered the said resolution, after previously making a verbal report in conformity to the instructions of the committee.

The verbal report differed from the preceding, in two particulars only ; it omitted to state openly at the meeting the terms used by Mr. Seixas concerning his power to *enjoy* any of the girls ; but terms of an extraordinary kind were referred to as having been used, and they had been and were afterwards on the same evening, mentioned to the members ; and it did state as reasons for the resolution of the committee, and for their not re-examining L. Ford, after Mr. Seixas's last conversation, that the apparent inconsistencies in certain parts of the examination, might as well be attributed to the fear, agitation, or confusion of the witnesses, as to untruth, and that they were not regarded as affecting the substance of the statement : and after the explicit caution given to Mr. Seixas not to converse with these children

until the further meeting of the committee, his efforts made *ex parte* to extract favourable answers from one of them, were such as to render further examination improper; since with his influence as master, which he seemed to know so well himself, it was scarcely possible to induce the children to speak frankly, even where they had not been previously prepared.

The summary referred to in the minute of this day, and which was handed to the Secretary after the verbal report was concluded, was in the following terms "That the committee are of opinion that D. G. Seixas in the course of the last winter took improper liberties with two of the female pupils by going to their sleeping apartments after they were in bed, and by kissing them there and elsewhere," which was with the verbal report accepted without a dissenting vote or remark.

After the report of the united opinion of the second committee of investigation had been unanimously accepted by the Board, much desultory discussion took place as to the propriety of dismissing D. G. Seixas from the school.

Mr. Alexander Henry in order to try the sense of the Board, moved that D. G. Seixas be immediately dismissed, stating at the same time, that he was not yet prepared to say how he would vote on the question.

Dr. Patterson objected to this resolution, on the ground that it was not expedient to deprive the pupils, at once, of the means of instruction, which could not perhaps for a length of time be supplied from any quarter, and stated that under the existing arrangements at the Asylum, the girls occupying a distant wing of the building, and D. G. Seixas lodging at his own home, no danger was to be apprehended from his continuance in the school as a teacher.

In reply to Dr. Patterson it was remarked by some of the members that it would be doing more justice to the pupils to deprive them entirely of instruction, than to permit them to draw it from an impure source, and that no effectual guard could be afforded to the female pupils, so long as D. G. Seixas, who had forfeited all claim to confidence, retained any connection with the institution.

By a great many other members however, the opinion was delivered that the immediate dismissal of D. G. Seixas by the act of the Board, was calculated irrecoverably to destroy the charac-

ter of the individual, and at the same time to expose to the world a subject, the details of which the interest of the school required to be buried in oblivion—a pretty general wish was therefore expressed, that such a course might be adopted as would leave it in D. G. Seixas's power to resign, and in the power of the Board still to keep from their minutes every trace of his misconduct.

Whereupon, Mr. Henry's motion being withdrawn, Mr. Meredith moved that the Secretary be directed to inform Mr. Seixas that the opinion of this Board, in consequence of the late investigation, is unfavourable to *his continuance in the school*.

To which resolution it was objected, that it would not leave to Mr. Seixas the liberty of resigning which had been considered so desirable, and accordingly, at the joint suggestion of Mr. Binney and Dr. Bache, the resolution was so modified by Mr. Meredith as to stand thus, "That the Secretary be directed to inform Mr. Seixas, that the opinion of this Board, in consequence of the late investigation, is unfavourable to him, and that the Board will hereafter take such further order on this subject, as it may deem expedient."

Mr. Samuel R. Wood remarked, that desirous as he was of giving D. G. Seixas an opportunity of resigning, and of thereby avoiding any exposure of himself, or of the Institution, yet he, Mr. Wood, rather than that there should exist any doubt on the mind of D. G. Seixas about the ultimate intentions of the Board, or that any difference of views should hereafter be produced by an appeal to the feelings of individual members, would prefer giving an unqualified vote for his immediate dismissal.

Dr. Bache observed, that, since it appeared to be the general opinion of the Board, that Mr. Seixas must be dismissed, he thought that, if he was to be retained for the present, as a matter of expediency, it would be the fairest course to take to let Mr. Seixas know upon what footing the matter stood, in order that he might have time to look out for other employment.

Mr. Paul Beck said, that he should vote for the modified resolution of Mr. Meredith, considering it as a middle course, most consistent with the interest of the Institution, and of Mr. Seixas, who would thereby have an opportunity of resigning instead of being removed by the Board.

After a general understanding, that the said resolution clearly

contemplated the ultimate removal of D. G. Seixas as soon as his place could be supplied, should he not previously resign, the question was taken on its adoption and carried. Only one member, Dr. Price, voted against it, without however offering any reasons for his dissent, nor was there in the whole course of the foregoing proceedings, any intimation given to the chair of a disposition on the part of any member to retain David G. Seixas in the Institution, longer than the necessity of the case might excuse. The yeas and nays were not taken, as they were not called for.

Mr. John Bacon stated that in order to supply the expected deficiency in the means of instruction, which would be occasioned by the resignation or dismissal of David G. Seixas, it was necessary to extend the present powers of the committee of instruction, who had been authorized to procure a teacher or teachers to take charge of that class *only*, which was to be admitted on the 1st November. It was accordingly on his motion resolved, that the resolution of the 1st August, 1821, be so modified as to allow the committee of instruction to engage a teacher or teachers.

The subsequent proceedings of the committee of instruction are here inserted, merely to complete the view of this part of the case.

Proceedings of the committee of instruction subsequently to the meeting of the 3d October.

On the 5th of October, the committee of instruction was convened, to take into consideration the best means of carrying into execution the power given to them. Messrs. Vaux, Meredith, Biddle and M'Ilvaine attended, (Mr. Binney alone being absent.)

The possibility of procuring teachers from France, England, or Germany was first considered, and the committee were united in opinion as to the importance of a uniform course of instruction in the American schools, and as to the necessity of obtaining for the Pennsylvania Institution a first rate teacher.

Some inquiry taking place about the extent of the authority delegated to the committee, Mr. Meredith replied, that the power given was ample, and said, "It is our business, if possible, to get Mr. Clerc from Hartford, to take charge of the school."

In answer to the question, whether the Hartford Board ought to be written to on the subject, Mr. Meredith said, "we shall have a better chance of success from a personal application," and

recommended that some of the younger members of the committee, who had most leisure, should proceed to Connecticut as soon as possible. Messrs. Biddle and M'Ilvaine consented to go on behalf of the committee, who, previously to any proceedings in the case of D. G. Seixas, and to the extension of their powers growing out of said proceedings, had at a stated meeting of the Board, on the 5th September, been authorized "to send a deputation to Hartford or elsewhere, for the purpose of making inquiries for teachers for the class, to be admitted in November." On the 16th October, the sub-committee set out for Hartford, and after effecting the object of their mission, returned to Philadelphia on the 26th.

AT a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held Saturday, October 27, 1821, at the Philosophical Hall,

Present, Bishop WHITE in the chair,

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Duane,	Messrs. M'Ilvaine,
Bacon,	Price,	Chapman,
Barker,	Fisher,	Jac. Gratz,
Mayer,	Vaux,	Henry,
Morris,	Biddle,	Bache,
Binney,	Archer,	Wood,
Meredith,	Irvine,	Williams.

Mr. M'Ilvaine on behalf of the committee of Instruction, reported, that in order to fulfil the duty assigned to them, the said committee had repaired to Hartford, and with the generous permission of the Hartford Board, engaged the temporary services of Mr. Laurent Clerc, as the principal of the Philadelphia School, &c. This report, on motion of Mr. Mayer, was accepted by the Board; and on motion of Mr. Binney, the President of the Board was requested to convey its thanks to the Directors of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb at Hartford, for their liberal assistance, &c.

The following letter from Mr. David G. Seixas, was read by the Secretary.

Saturday Evening, October 27, 1821.

To the Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of acknowledging the receipt of a copy of

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the resolution passed at your last meeting. I beg to inform you that I have intended to present a communication at your next stated meeting, and that I regret that it is not yet entirely prepared, or should avail myself of the special meeting of this evening, to offer it for your consideration. Should it be desired, I would be able to furnish it prior to the next stated meeting.

It will afford me great satisfaction, to be permitted to meet any and every doubt of the purity of the intentions of every act of mine, either relating to my office as teacher, or to my private concerns. I feel a confidence in myself, that in whatever I have done, the good of the Institution has been prominently in view.

Relying on the justice of the Board of the Directors, I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. G. SEIXAS.

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors, of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held Nov. 1, 1821, at the Philosophical Hall,

Present ROBERT PATTERSON, Esq. in the chair,

Messrs. Binney,	Messrs. Barker,	Messrs. Morris,
Williams,	Beck,	Irvine,
Gratz,	Bache,	Bacon,
Archer,	Wood,	Biddle,
Price,	Chapman,	Cadwalader,
McIlvaine,	Vaughan,	Mayer,
Vaux,	Duane,	Fisher.
Meredith,	Henry,	

On motion of Dr. Bache, resolved, that all the papers on file, relating to Mr. Seixas's case, be read.

Mr. Meredith moved an adjournment, which motion was on a division lost.

General Cadwalader then read to the Board; first, the resolution of Sept. 21, appointing a committee to inquire into the state of the Asylum. Second, the report of that committee. Third, the resolution of Sept. 27, referring that report to a second committee. Fourth, the summary of the report of that second committee, stating the guilt of Mr. Seixas in the particulars therein referred to, and the resolution accepting it. Fifth, Mr. Meredith's motion, directing the Secretary to inform Mr. Seixas, that the opinion of this Board, in consequence of the late investiga-

tion, was unfavourable to him; and concluded by moving, that David G. Seixas be no longer continued as a teacher in this institution.

The following letter from Mr. Seixas to the Board, and the note enclosing it to the Secretary, were then read.

Philadelphia, November 1st, 1821.

MR. H. J. WILLIAMS.

Sir—Please to present the within to the Board of Directors, and in so doing, I beg of you to communicate to them, that in consequence of my having heard that several assertions have been privately circulated, which involve my private reputation, and therefore affect my moral fitness for teaching, I am desirous of meeting every thing that has reached the ears of all the Directors. I confide in the justice of the Board, thus to allow me the means of defending my character against secret and malignant accusations. Among other matters it has been propagated, and extensively spread, that gross indecencies appear in the pupils' exercise books; I therefore transmit them to the Board that they may judge how far this charge has been foreign to truth.

Respectfully I am your obedient servant,

(Signed)

DAVID G. SEIXAS.

To the President and Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

Philadelphia, Oct. 29th, 1821.

GENTLEMEN—In reference to the resolution passed at the last stated meeting of the Directors, I beg leave to present, that in every action of mine connected with the pupils of the Institution, I have ever had directly and solely in view, the improvement of their minds and manners, and the prosperity of the Institution.

I shall not consume your time in stating minutely what I communicated unstudiedly on my first interview with the second committee of investigation; I shall forbear to detail what was related during the second interview with that committee, by the pupils, the matron, and the cook. I refer you to the said committee for any information which you may desire, and I confide in them to declare how free and frank my communications were to them, and how irreconcilable and contradictory the statements were of the pupils, and how completely their statements were unsupported, and invalidated by the evidence of the matron.

I also appeal and confide to the first and second committees, to communicate to you whatever has been detected by them of prevarication, disagreement or contradiction between the first and second examinations of the pupils, and the complaints that they presented to the matron previously. I am induced to believe that their stories have varied importantly, at the different periods. When before the second committee, Eliza Williams mentioned my having kissed her in bed, one of the gentlemen observed, "here is something new." I therefore think that although she had complained to the matron many months before, and had recently detailed her story to the first committee, this "*kissing*" had not entered her head previously, but that it was invented during the interval between her first and second examination. I cannot believe that a feature so important of her accusations, could have been forgotten, or would have been omitted had it ever taken place. I trust that the gentlemen who were present at both examinations will correct me if I am in error and do me the justice to point out to you all matters of both examinations that do not correspond.

I appeal with confidence to the second committee to say that notwithstanding L. Ford's opposite statements to the previous committee, whether she did not in their presence deny any personal knowledge of any improper conduct towards her; she persisted in declaring that Catharine Hartman told her of me; before them she did not recollect my having spelled my name, or of my having thrown water; but her subsequent recollection, however, corroborated the hasty communication that I had made at my first interview. It is not impossible that agitation might have disqualified her from advertg to those facts: it must be remembered that these facts transpired many months ago, and since that period her mind has undergone a great change by education, a multitude of ideas had been imparted to her, and its condition then, compared to what it was last winter, was as much altered as would be that of a rustic taken from our wilderness, and made to travel through the populous parts of Europe.

If we compute time ideally by the number of events, and their consequent accession of ideas, then last winter is to her as several years past. And as the memory cannot always treasure up all occurrences, the most important or interesting, obliterate those less worthy of preservation.

It must be alleged in her favour, that what she disclosed in the evening to the matron and myself, was purely voluntary. I went away from the Asylum, when the committee departed, I did not exchange a sign with her, for I was not there except while talking near the street door with the matron, in the afternoon, relative to an interview, in her and Mr. Dillingham's presence, with the two girls in the evening.

In the presence of the matron, (to whom I explained what I was about to ask L. Ford) I mentioned to L. Ford that she had not told all the truth, that she ought not to conceal any part; I used no threat, nor offered any reward. An appeal was made to her for the truth, from her silent but expressive language issued a spontaneous corroboration of the two important facts of my having spelled my name with her fingers, and of my having compelled her and Eliza Williams to go to their beds, by having thrown water into their room.

I appeal to the committee concerning Catharine Hartman's statements, as to their inconsistency and contradictoriness. She was asleep and woke by my having shaken her shoulder; yet she said that she had seen the door opened, and a person enter; she during her pantomime, several times omitted the kissing, yet she afterwards added it when signs had been made to her of it, and the word had been spelled to her. She was frightened at having been shaken and covered herself, yet she observed the unknown to retire from her side, to the other side of the bed; she described the manner of the unknown's entrance at the distance of ten feet from her, yet she could not recognize his features or form, when he was within a few inches of her. She said it was so dark that she could not recognize the unknown when near to her, that she covered her head because she was frightened, yet through the prevailing darkness, she saw the unknown put his hand gently under the bed clothes, on the other side of her bed, pull them off, and kiss L. Ford once. I incline to think that she told out of my presence, that the unknown pulled the bed clothes at the bottom of the bed, and something about thrusting his hand up the bed, yet in my presence she said that she and L. Ford were shaken by the shoulders, and the clothes pulled off their shoulders. I confide in the gentlemen of the first committee to rectify or corroborate this contradiction.

I appeal to the second committee for what Eliza Williams stated. She declared I had kissed her in presence of L. Ford. An incident in this part of her statement might not have been perceived by the committee, but it was distinctly noticed by me. When she was questioned as to the manner of kissing, she unhesitatingly, and incautiously took hold of her left with her right hand, and began to raise it to her lips, her countenance instantly changed, and she put her right hand on her lips, and then on her cheeks, I now think that I made some remarks to show that she had indicated that I had kissed her hand, as often afterwards as the question was asked her, she pointed to her cheek. I have chosen to dwell on this occurrence because it may illustrate her artful and prevaricating talent; possibly it has been witnessed in oral accusations, that the truth has been accidentally disclosed, and an effort made subsequently to conceal it; the impressions on such occasion, I would beg to be applied to the present event with Eliza Williams. I submit to the judgment of the Directors, how much invalidity and impurity, ought to attach to her other statements.

The principal points of her accusations, are, 1st. That I had kissed her several times, in opposition to this you would have the evidence of her class mates. 2d. That I kissed her in bed, against its probability, are the facts of her never having told it before the first committee, nor to the matron many months ago, when she complained to her, although her complaint took place about the period when she pretends the act was committed; a stronger cause for doubting this point exists in the fact related by herself of her having been asleep at the moment of its pretended commission. 3d. That I kissed her cheek in school, in opposition to this, are her own unstudied and incautious motions of raising her left hand to her face, with her right hand. The cause that led me to kiss her hand, a few words will explain.—One day I told her that she must remain in school, and study a lesson which she had neglected to learn: a short time afterwards she came to me, signifying that she was sorry for her negligence, and that in future she would be attentive. I was moved by her apparent sincerity, I took hold of her hand, shook it, and kissed it, and told her that I was glad that she was conscious of her fault, and hoped that in future she would be assiduous: she left me apparently not less happy at her liberation, than I was with the cause that

so early produced it; but it seems that in this instance as in others existing between herself and school mates, while she wore a smile on her face, her heart was wrinkled with anger. As soon as she had finished tea, she told the matron, that I had kissed her, and concealed the cause and the manner.

As impairing the credibility of the whole of her accusations, I will repeat what the matron declared of her in the presence of the second committee: that Eliza Williams was *particularly* of a bad disposition, that she was addicted to *falsehood*, that she was *ungrateful*, that she was *malicious*, that she was *vengeful*; this character she has acquired by her behaviour to her class mates, and her conduct generally towards all persons around her.

I shall adduce another motive for disbelief of her statements. It now appears that the matron was informed several months ago of these identical misdoings; she doubtless had been constantly watching me, to observe something corroborative or confirmative of the accusations against me. What an ordeal I was unknowingly exposed to for many months! Innocence herself, under such observation, might have furnished acts for reasonable suspicion, under these Argus' eyes, it is wonderful that nothing has been perceived to found a suspicion on. The matron declared in the presence of the committee, that during the whole period of her residence in the Asylum, she had never witnessed at any time or in any place, any act of mine, creating even a suspicion of improper behaviour to the female pupils. If my character has passed unhurt through such an ordeal, and I beg it to be remembered how severely scrutinized it must have been, ought it not to be invulnerable to the shafts of the infantile malice; and falsehoods of Eliza Williams; if her stories which differ at different periods are unsupported, if they stand as they really do, completely insulated—without a prop—if the testimony of the matron does not support them—if on the contrary as it is—in opposition to them—ought not Eliza Williams to be disbelieved, and her accusations in mass to be rejected. Although the stubbornness of her disposition, and her disregard of truth thus far, do not justify the expectation, still she may hereafter retract her falsehoods, and like L. Ford avow to have occurred the throwing of water, and the spelling in her hand.

Lest the propriety of my entrance into the females' bed rooms

be denied, lest it should be supposed to have been instigated by evil intentions, I will relate the causes. The first visit was in consequence of seeing a light as I passed their door; in the instant I opened the door, I saw the candle burning, I extinguished it, and went to my bed. The second time I saw a greater light; on opening the door, the lamp was on the floor: I wakened L. Ford, told her of its danger, I blew it out, and immediately went to bed. I told the matron of what had happened, and the dangerous consequences of this neglect. Another time I awoke, I thought I heard some person walking through the entry, and enter the girls' room; with the fact strong on my mind, of what the matron has since mentioned before the committee, that she had been obliged to go up stairs at night, and had found one of the girls in the boys' room, after she had supposed them in bed, I arose and went into the boys' rooms, and counted them; I thought one was missing. I then went into the girls' room. I counted them also, by putting my hand on their heads; Eliza Williams and Letitia Ford seemed frightened; I immediately spelled my name, to signify that they need not be alarmed; having thus satisfied myself of my error, I returned to my bed. On another occasion, I heard the girls making a noise, and as the matron had been several times obliged to go up stairs, to stop this grievance, I meditated whether I could subject them to any penalty without going into their rooms. I took a half pint mug, with about a wine-glass full of water in it, and immediately on opening the door threw it into the room. The following morning, I noticed L. Ford and E. Williams making signs about throwing water. I immediately told them it was I who threw it, and explained to them the reason therefor. E. Williams replied, that she would tell the Matron that I had been in their room. Not feeling any consciousness of improper behaviour, I expressed to her my indifference of what she would tell. Whenever I deemed it necessary to point out her faults to E. Williams, she threatened to tell the Matron of my visit to her room.

The cook has mentioned that I had visited her room twice, once when she slept alone; even this poor creature must discern mal-intentions in my steps; although I knew that none but herself slept there, yet she makes me to look around with an evil eye. My reason for this visit, was in consequence of her being suspected of having stolen some sheets. The second visit took place according to her statement with a lamp in my hand.

I heard a noise. I went fearlessly and boldly into her room, knowing it to be her only room, the room in which she invariably slept, knowing that she never slept in any other. I stood near the door ; I saw all was quiet ; that she was abed, and the girls were lying still ; she and they appeared to be asleep, for she did not speak, and they did not move. As she was in the room, whether asleep or not, it was not my object to ascertain ; her presence satisfied me that nothing was wrong with the girls, and her stillness in bed, that nothing was wrong with her. She mentioned to the Committee that after I had retired the girls laughed. If this is true, it is probable that the noise I had heard was their laughing—surely there was no subject for merriment in my behaviour ; the cause of it must have existed prior to my entrance.

I had constantly avowed that nothing could induce me to reside with the pupils. I had a mother and three sisters to protect, yet did I expose them to guard the more helpless subjects of the infant institution. A Matron, a stranger to me and them, and incapable of communicating with them, was placed in the Asylum. Necessity demanded every effort to render her task of superintending their domestic wants, practicable and agreeable. Uncertainty of her continuance existed, both from the chance of her own choice and her qualifications for the office ; she might not have liked it, or might not have been competent for the necessary duties. Under these impressions, during several months, I burthened myself with labours not belonging to a Teacher ; I yielded assistance in matters unconnected with tuition. It was during this identical period, when every nerve was stimulated with zeal, and every muscle strained to aid the foundation of the Institution, that those incidents occurred from which an unfavourable opinion has been formed of my conduct. Had I adhered strictly to my own family's wants and security, I should not have been at the Asylum ; or had I been careless of the embarrassing situation of the Matron, my exertions would have been confined exclusively to the subject of instruction. Had I been indifferent to the manners and morals of the pupils, I should never have entered their rooms, and therefore should have never rendered myself obnoxious to their inventive slanders. Those pupils had been by me generally collected from the alleys and courts of our suburbs ; their parentage was lower than

humble and obscure, and in some cases, it originated in the dregs of society. Already before their entrance into the Asylum, I had fed many, clothed some, and instructed all. I had rescued them from a state of vagrancy ; I had raised them to partial habits of mental and physical industry ; I beheld them elevated by the labors that resulted from my own personal sacrifices. Could I contemplate their former state of degradation, and their then improved condition, without experiencing a solemn responsibility—without cherishing for them a consanguineous attachment ! Who cultivates a vegetable—who rears an animal—a brute—and yet feels not a kindred-like sensation. Excited as I naturally was in all my movements by a paternal regard for those human subjects of my industry, an individual thus circumstanced—ought he, while performing the functions of a parent, be liable to suspicions of criminality. Is it just to think criminally of his conduct, unless evidence, indisputable, uncontradictory and positive, has been exhibited against him. Is the information obtained against me of this unequivocal character ? Is not my reputation in this instance of as much value to me as life ? My judges will, I hope, decide that evidence deserving less faith than usually warrants capital punishment, ought not to be accepted to establish guiltiness in me. I hope they will admit, that in a case like mine, wherein the relative condition of teacher and pupils is so analogous with that of a parent and his offspring, that the stern code which ought to govern the conduct of the one, is instinctively nullified by the affectionate vigilance of the other.

On my extensive solicitude for the welfare of the pupils, and with it was connected the prosperity of the Institution, I depend for a complete justification for all my actions.

I am your ob't serv't,

Signed, DAVID G. SEIXAS.

After some discussion, the Board on motion adjourned, to meet on Saturday, November 3d, at seven o'clock P. M.

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held Nov. 3, 1821, at the Philosophical Hall—

Present, Bishop WHITE, in the chair,

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Vaughan,	Messrs. Price,
Meredith,	Cadwalader,	M'Ilvaine,
Barker,	Mayer,	Chapman,
Henry,	Fisher,	Gratz,
Bache,	Vaux,	Beck,
Williams,	Biddle,	Irvine,
Binney,	Duane,	Wood.

General Cadwalader called up the motion which was before the Board at the last meeting, that Mr. Seixas be no longer continued as a Teacher in this Institution.

A letter from David G. Seixas was read, and in compliance with the request contained in it, the Note directed to the Secretary and received at the last meeting, was read again.

Mr. Duane offered a resolution postponing the motion before the Board, for the purpose of appointing a committee to inquire into the general moral character of Mr. Seixas, which was on a division lost. Mr. Duane then moved an amendment to Gen. Cadwalader's motion by adding to it the following words—"because the Board of Directors believe that D. G. Seixas is guilty of the offences with which he is charged in the report made by the second committee appointed to consider his case." Which motion was rejected.

On motion of Mr. Vaux, the last vote was reconsidered, and the question again taken on Mr. Duane's amendment, and again negatived.

Mr. Meredith then moved a postponement of Gen. Cadwalader's motion, for the purpose of taking into consideration the following motion submitted by him.

Resolved, That the fact admitted by David G. Seixas, one of the teachers in this institution, of his having on several occasions gone into the bed rooms of the female pupils, and that *by night*, after they had retired, whatever may have been the motives which led him there, requires the censure of the board, inasmuch as such familiarity invites to crime, is calculated to alarm the parents and friends of the pupils, and to impair the confidence which they and the public ought to have in the preservation and improvement of their moral principles and conduct.—That the preceding resolution be communicated to D. G. Seixas, and that he be informed that it is the unanimous sense of this board that the familiarity therein alluded to cannot, and ought not to be permitted, and that the repetition of it, or any other violation of

the decorum and reserve which are indispensable between teacher and pupil, will demand from this Board, a mode of interposition, which will effectually prevent its recurrence.

The yeas and nays being called for, were taken, on the question to postpone, as follows :

YEAS.

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Henry,	Messrs. Fisher,
Meredith,	Price,	Barker,
Gratz,	Irvine,	Williams.—10.
Duane,		

NAYS.

Messrs. Binney,	Messrs. M'Ilvaine,	Messrs. Beck,
Chapman,	Wood,	Bache,
Vaughan,	Vaux,	Mayer.—11.
Cadwalader,	Biddle,	

And the motion was consequently lost.

The question was then taken on the original motion to dismiss D. G. Seixas, and the yeas and nays being again called for, were as follows :

YEAS.

Messrs. Binney,	Messrs. Biddle,	Messrs. Mayer,
Vaux,	Cadwalader,	Bache,
Chapman,	Beck,	M'Ilvaine,
Vaughan,	Henry,	Wood.—12.

NAYS.

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Barker,	Messrs. Irvine,
Meredith,	Duane,	Fisher,
Gratz,	Price,	Williams.—9.

And the resolution was consequently agreed to.

On motion of General Cadwalader, resolved, that six months salary be given to Mr. Seixas, in consideration of his early services to the Institution.

Dr. Chapman moved a re-consideration of the last resolution, which was carried, and Mr. Binney then offered the following resolution as a substitute, which was agreed to.

Resolved, That if it shall be made to appear to this Board, that the donation of a sum of money is necessary, and will be acceptable to David G. Seixas for his present relief, they will in consideration of his early services in the formation of the school, make provision for the same, as far as the situation of the funds will permit.

On motion of General Cadwalader, the Secretary was directed to communicate to Mr. Seixas the resolutions relating to him, passed this evening.

AT a stated meeting of the Board of Directors, of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held Nov. 7, 1821, at the Asylum,

Present, Bishop WHITE in the chair,

Messrs. Patterson,	Messrs. Gratz,	Messrs. Bacon,
Vaughan,	Bache,	Mayer,
Price,	Chapman,	Wood,
Williams,	Cadwalader,	Biddle.
Vaux,	M'Ilvaine,	

After the minutes of the preceding meetings had been read, on motion of Dr. Chapman, ordered that all the papers on file, relating to the case of Mr. Seixas, be entered on the minutes.

Mr. Patterson submitted the following reasons for the dissent of the minority of the Board, (with one exception), on the question of Mr. Seixas's dismissal.

The undersigned members of the Board of Directors, of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, beg leave to enter their dissent from the late decision of the Board, expelling David G. Seixas, their principal teacher, from the Institution.

First. Because whatever may be alleged respecting his imprudent conduct, in going into the bed room of the girls, after they had retired to rest, (for which however he has given very plausible reasons to justify his conduct) yet we have seen no evidence to convince us that in this he was actuated by any bad motive.

Second. Because being so precipitately expelled from the Institution, and that under the impression of his guilty conduct, must render it scarce possible for him to procure any reputable employment, by which to support himself, his aged mother, and four dependent sisters.

Third. Because his disinterested, arduous, and successful exertions in originating the seminary, and the very great and justly acknowledged progress he has made in the education of his pupils, would seem to claim more tenderness from the directors than they have exercised.

Fourth. Because though a bare majority of the Board of Directors had the *legal power* of acting as they have done, yet it is very questionable whether they had a *moral right*. There are few, if any, public seminaries of learning, where a professor or

principal teacher can be displaced, except by a majority, consisting of much more than half the members present of a full meeting of the Board of Trustees ; and yet in the present case, the majority on the question of expulsion, consisted of merely a single vote more than half the members present.

For the above reasons, with others which might be adduced, the undersigned beg leave to enter their dissent.

R. PATTERSON,	WM. PRICE,
W. MEREDITH,	JAMES N. BARKER,
C. IRVINE,	WM. J. DUANE,
WILLIAM W. FISHER,	JAC. GRATZ.

Philadelphia, Nov. 7, 1821.

A letter from Mr. Seixas was read by the Secretary, and on motion, ordered to be returned to him without remark ; several bills enclosed in it were referred to the committee of accounts, to take order.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to draw an order for the payment of Mr. Seixas's salary for a quarter, ending the 15th October, and another for the one since commenced.

At a stated meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, held December 5, 1821, at the Asylum—

Present, ROBERT PATTERSON, Esq. in the chair,		
Messrs. Binney,	Messrs. Vaux,	Messrs. Biddle,
Cadwalader,	Duane,	Henry,
Price,	Bache,	Haines,
M'Ilvaine,	Williams,	Gratz.
Mayer,	Morris,	

Mr. Binney read the following paper, which was on motion ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The subscribers, members of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, think it proper to place on the Journal the following remarks :—

Notwithstanding their dissent from each and all of the propositions contained in the paper heretofore presented to the Board, under the date of 7th November, 1821, it is not the intention of the subscribers to make them the subject of discussion. Their personal respect for the signers of that paper, is of itself sufficient to deter them from entering on an argument, which if it contained any thing to excite displeasure, would be permanently recorded by writing, and continue to propagate mischief to the parties

and to the school, after the cause of the excitement ought to be forgotten. But they are further deterred by the consideration, that as the reasons of the dissent have an exclusive reference to the case of Mr. Seixas, the subscribers, who do not admit themselves to be subject to question by other members of the Board, for either their motives or discretion in that case, will not question the motives or discretion of those who hold a different opinion.

The reason, and the only reason, of the subscribers, for requesting a place on the minutes for these remarks, is their sincere desire to protect the interests of the school, from the consequences of a precedent, which, if followed up, cannot but be of fatal influence—and to express upon record, their conviction, that if the Directors of a benevolent institution, will neither rest satisfied with their own consciousness of acting right in its concerns, nor permit those of a different opinion to remain unassailed for what they have done under a similar consciousness, in whose favor soever the contention may be settled, the institution will fall between them.

The right to enter reasons of dissent upon the minutes, is not questionable in the abstract. The exercise of it is at times resorted to in public bodies, for the purpose of acting upon public opinion, or to give a strong expression to important public principles. The political institutions of the country, and others also to which men are attached by a powerful sense of interest, may bear the conflict, which in general springs from making solemn question of the conduct of such as are employed in their management.

But the subscribers think this impossible of any institution, whose success depends upon the kind and affectionate solicitude of those who have charge of it, upon the personal satisfaction of its administrators in all they do, and upon their exemption from imputations of harshness, precipitancy, or moral wrong, in their transactions. If such imputations are just, the worse corrective is that which is likely to end in an angry spirit, perpetuated upon the records of the Institution; for when the evil of particular mismanagement is cured in this way, it will be found that a temper has been infused into the body, to which few persons will care to expose themselves.

The subscribers are well assured, that the gentlemen who have signed the dissent, are as sincere in their attachment to the school as themselves, and also that they are as competent to

judge of what will best promote its interest. But it cannot have escaped their observation, that a dissent or protest, from the very solemnity which attends it, is naturally received as a challenge for a counter exhibition, and that if it be accepted, the desire of self justification must be rigorously controlled, not to run into all the excesses of crimination and recrimination, for which contests of this kind are so remarkable. This is a result which probably no one has contemplated, and to which upon the theatre of this Institution, the subscribers will in no way contribute.

Differing therefore from those gentlemen, as the subscribers certainly do, as to the propriety both of the original decision, and of the formal manifestation of a dissent upon the journal, they conceive it right to record this statement of their views, as a rule for at least their individual practice upon all future occasions.—

* WM. WHITE,	SAM. B. MORRIS,
HOR. BINNEY,	JN. VAUGHAN,
T. CADWALADER,	N. CHAPMAN,
ROBERTS VAUX,	REUBEN HAINES,
PHILIP F. MAYER,	* PAUL BECK, Jun.
ALEXANDER HENRY,	* JOHN BACON,
CLEMENT C. BIDDLE,	* SAMUEL R. WOOD,
WILLIAM M'ILVAINE,	* BENJN. TILGHMAN,
FRANKLIN BACHE	* SAMUEL ARCHER.

December 5, 1821.

* Signed at their own request after the paper was read to the Board.

The committee of publication has been directed to subjoin the following note, viz:

“A report having been made in relation to the subject of the foregoing documents, by a committee of the House of Representatives of this Commonwealth, to that Body, which report has been published in the news-papers, it is proper to inform the contributors that said report was not called up, or acted upon by the House of Representatives.”

Published by order of the Board,

ATTESTED, (Signed) WM. WHITE.
HENRY J. WILLIAMS, Secretary.